

Developmental Phases in Print Awareness

Child: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

- ☐ Recognizes specific books by cover
- ☐ Pretends to read books
- ☐ Understands that books are handled in particular ways
- ☐ Begins attending to specific print, such as letters in names
- ☐ Uses increasingly purposeful scribbling
- ☐ Occasionally seems to distinguish between drawing and writing
- ☐ Produces some letter-like forms and scribbles with some features of English writing

Birth to 3

- ☐ Knows that alphabet letters are a special category of visual graphics that can be individually named
- ☐ Recognizes print in local environment
- ☐ Understands that the story is in the print, not the picture
- ☐ Understands that different text forms are used for different types of print (e.g., a list for groceries is different than the list on a menu)
- ☐ Displays reading and writing attempts, calling attention to self: "Look at my story."
- ☐ Writes (scribbles) message as part of playful activity
- ☐ Recognizes if the book is upside down

Pre-K

- ☐ Knows the parts of a book and their functions
- ☐ Finds front and back of book
- ☐ Understands that the story is in the print, not the picture
- ☐ Knows where to start reading—top left
- ☐ Knows direction to read—left-to-right; top-to-bottom
- ☐ Points to each word while adult reads (voice-print match)
- ☐ Shows you the first part of the story; the last part of the story
- ☐ Demonstrates familiarity with a number of types or genres of texts (e.g., storybooks, expository texts, poems, newspapers, and everyday print such as signs, notices, labels)

K

- ☐ Understands you read the left page before the right
- ☐ Understands and uses basic punctuation and capitalization
- ☐ Finds a capital letter that corresponds to a lower case letter and vice versa
- ☐ Knows when letters of a familiar word are out of order
- ☐ Knows if a word is upside down
- ☐ Produces a variety of types of compositions (e.g., stories, descriptions, journal entries) showing appropriate relationships between printed text, illustrations, and other graphics

Grade 1

Key: + always does (mastered)
+/- sometimes does (instructional)
- never does

Completed by: _____
Position: _____ Date: _____

*Adapted from Marie Clay's Concepts About Print Test and Starting Out Right, Burns, Griffin, & Snow, Eds. National Academy Press, Washington, DC.